



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF:

GROUP: 1764

KOBAYASHI, et al

SERIAL NO.: 09/898,564

EXAMINER: NECKEL, Alexa D.

FILED: July 3, 2001

FOR: PRODUCTION PROCESS FOR METHANOL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
MAIL STOP: RCE

SIR:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) application.

Any necessary fees in connection with this matter should be deducted from Deposit Account No. **503814**.

On page 2 of the Advisory Action dated June 22, 2006, the Examiner indicated that a preliminary search was conducted and revealed reference JP10-277382 as a reference that applicant may want to review. Applicant would appreciate this reference being made of record. However, applicant wishes to point out to the Examiner that the subject application has a priority date based upon the corresponding parent application filed in Japan of October 2, 1998 and that the reference JP10-277382 is owned by the same applicant.

Accordingly, this Japanese patent should not be citable as a reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, MAIL STOP RCE on August 7th, 2006.

Signed:

Dated: August 7th, 2006